REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 19, 2005, the Examiner noted that claims 1-23 were pending, allowed claims 1-16 and 21-23, objected to claims 18-20 and rejected claim 17. Claim 18 has been amended, claim 17 have been canceled, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-16 and 18-23 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

Claim 17 was under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Maynard (US Patent No. 5,966,958). Claim 17 has been cancelled.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 18-20 and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so rewritten and it is submitted that these claims have not been narrowed and have the same scope as prior to being made independent and are now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4/18/5

By: _____

J. Randall Beckers
Registration No. 30,358

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501